

# Seven Sisters Wildlife Management Area

## 2004 Small Mammal Trapping and Species Inventory Report

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)

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Seven Sisters Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 562-acre parcel about 10 miles southwest of Sidney within Richland County. The site orders the Yellowstone River for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, a side channel for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, and Crane Creek for more than a mile. The riparian habitat along the water bodies and associated backwater sloughs is highly productive and provides habitat for a variety of species. Other vegetation on the site includes Cottonwood stands, grain fields, and meadows, which add additional habitat diversity. An assortment of recreational activities is available at the WMA, including boating, trapping, hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and agate-hunting.

### Findings: 95 Captures of 5 Species

- Small Mammal Trapping Lines (Table 2)
  - 95 Captures of 5 Species
- Large Fox Trap
  - 0 Captures
- Camera Sites
  - 0 Captures

**Table 1. Trapping Area and Habitat Type**

Location #	Name	Habitat
1	Line1	Cottonwood Forest
2	Line2	Grassland/Smooth Brome
3	Line3	Grassland/ Smooth Brome
4	Line4	Cottonwood Forest
5	Fox1	Cottonwood Forest
6	Camera1	Cottonwood Forest
7	Camera2	Cottonwood Forest

**Table 2. Capture Summary**

Species Captured	Trapline				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Yellow-Breasted Chat	1				1
Western Harvest Mouse		2			2
Deer Mouse	9		3	17	29
Meadow Vole	12	8	11	30	61
Unknown Shrew	2				2
Total Captures	24	10	14	47	95



Yellow-Breasted Chat      Kristi DuBois 2003

**Table 3. Trap Summary**

Trap Type	Trapline				Total Trap Nights	Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
	1	2	3	4				
Snap, small (victor)	42	50	36	33	161	22	13.67	2
Snap, med (museum special)	23	34	29	31	117	39	33.3	3
Snap, large (rat)	8	10	7	8	33	1	3.03	1
Cage, small (sherman)	49	49	37	39	174	9	5.17	2
Cage, med (skunk)	10	10	8	8	36	0	0	0
Pitfall	25	25	20	20	90	24	26.7	4
Total Trap Nights	157	178	137	139	611			
Total Captures	24	10	14	47	95			
Captures/100 Trap Nights	15.3	5.62	10	34	15.27			
Number of Species	4	2	2	2				

**Table 4. Trapsite Summary**

Trap Type	Total Trap Nights	Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
Cage, large	3	0	0	0
Camera	8	0	0	0

#### Table 4. Miscellaneous Species Observed

Woodhouse's Toad  
Northern Leopard Frog  
Canada Goose  
Least Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Common Nighthawk  
Northern Flicker  
Western Wood-pewee  
Eastern Kingbird  
Bank Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Black-billed Magpie  
American Robin  
Cedar Waxwing  
Yellow Warbler  
American Redstart  
Lark Sparrow  
Baltimore Oriole  
American Goldfinch  
American Beaver  
Common Raccoon  
Mink  
White-tailed Deer



Cedar Waxwing



Beaver



Mink

## Trapline Photos



Trapline 1



Trapline 2



Trapline 3



Trapline 4

**Photo Credits: MFWP staff unless otherwise indicated.**

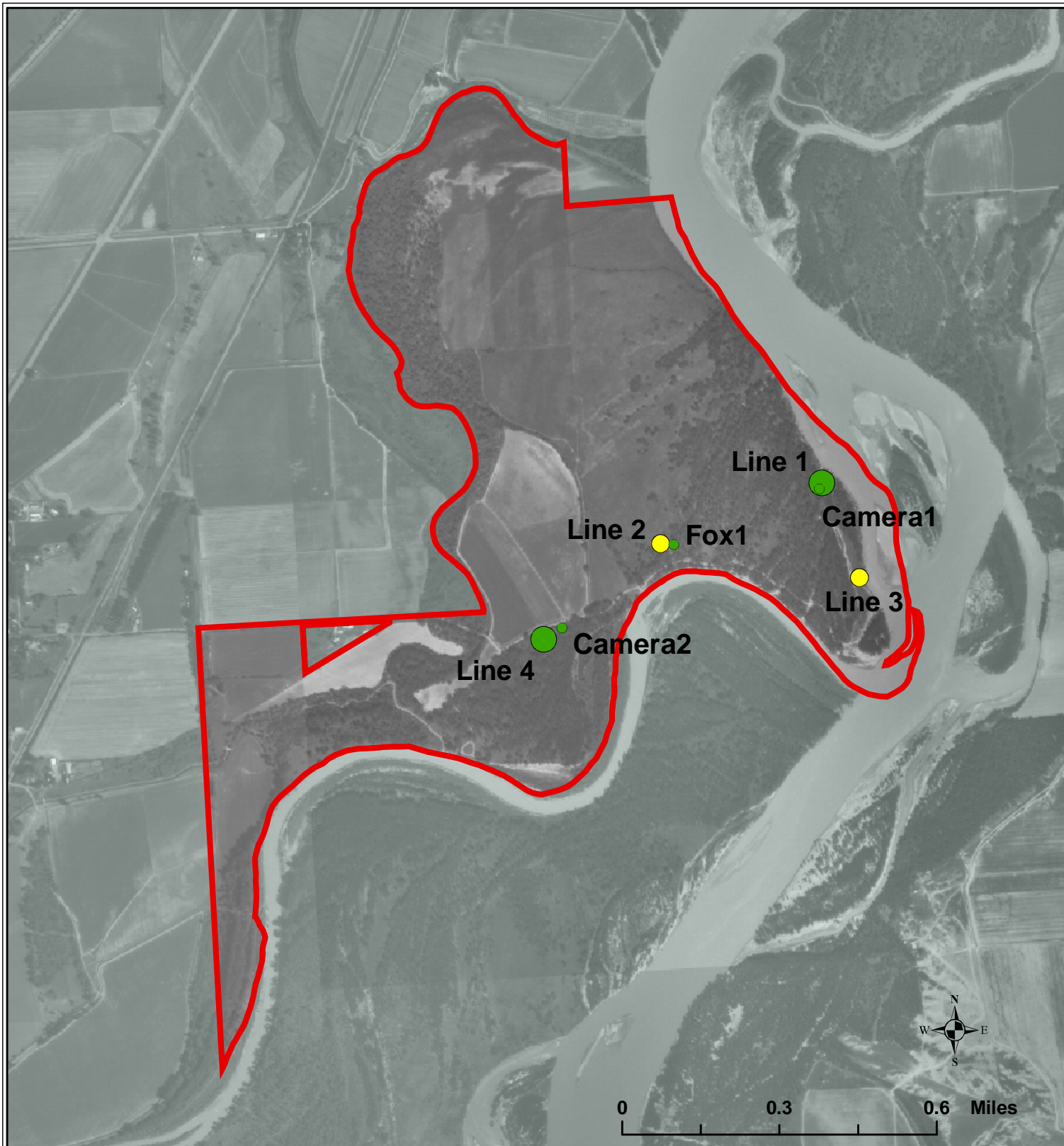


Figure 1:

## Seven Sisters WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site

### Trapping Locations

General Landcover (Symbol color)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Agriculture      | <span style="color: purple;">●</span> Conifer Forest | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Riparian         |
| <span style="color: black;">●</span> Barren / Badlands | <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Grassland      | <span style="color: brown;">●</span> Shrub Grassland |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> Broadleaf Forest  | * Not all landcover types were sampled at all sites. |  |

Captures/100 trapnights (Symbol size)

\* only calculated for trap lines

- 0 - 5    ● >5 - 15    ● >15

